

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-21 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to sufficiently describe or suggest an apparatus for identifying a vehicle and likely driver comprising: an optical input device; a computer; a database; and a display; wherein the computer receives an image of an approaching vehicles license plate from the optical input device, the computer searches the database and identifies information relevant to the license plate and identifies an expected driver of the vehicle; the computer receives an actual driver image from the same optical input device and compares the actual driver image with a prerecorded image and determines whether the actual image is not substantially similar to the expected driver image for issuance of at least one investigation signal. These along with further limitations set forth by the claims render the application allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ERIC M. BLOUNT whose telephone number is (571)272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Bugg can be reached on (571) 272-2998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Eric M. Blount
Examiner
Art Unit 2612

/George A Bugg/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 2612